

Lance W. Lord for his exceptional service to the United States and will wish him and his family all the best in the days ahead.

**A BILL TO RATIFY A CONVEYANCE
OF THE JICARILLA APACHE RES-
ERVATION TO RIO ARRIBA COUN-
TY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico. This legislation will bring resolution to a long-standing dispute between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County.

The dispute, which has been ongoing for nearly two decades, is over the ownership of a road on a parcel of land formerly referred to as Theis Ranch. The Jicarilla Nation purchased Theis Ranch in 1985 and, in March 1988, the Nation subsequently conveyed a trust deed for Theis Ranch to the United States. The Theis Ranch property then, by proclamation of the Secretary of the Interior, became part of the Jicarilla Reservation in September 1988.

A lawsuit was filed in October of 1987 and the District Court was asked to determine the ownership status of the disputed road. In the original lawsuit, Rio Arriba County sought to establish that the county acquired the disputed road by prescription and, therefore, the county was the road's rightful owner. However, the Jicarilla Nation contended that the Nation owned the road because the road was, and continues to be, within the boundaries of the expanded 1988 Jicarilla Reservation. On December 10, 2001, the District Court found in favor of the Jicarilla and determined that the disputed road traversed the Jicarilla Reservation in several locations. Rio Arriba County appealed the December 2001 District Court decision and the appeal is currently pending before the Court of Appeals of the State of New Mexico. In a separate yet relevant matter, Rio Arriba County appealed a February 2003 decision by the Southwest Bureau of the United States Department of the Interior to acquire a tract of land referred to as the Boyd Ranch in trust for the Jicarilla Nation. Rio Arriba's appeal of this determination is currently pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

In an effort to settle the road dispute, the Jicarilla Nation and Rio Arriba County entered into mediation. The parties successfully reached a settlement that was subsequently executed by both the Jicarilla Nation, on May 3, 2003, and Rio Arriba County, on May 15, 2003. Representatives of the Secretary of the Interior approved the settlement on June 18, 2003. The settlement agreement, which would be implemented by this legislation, provided that the Jicarilla Nation would transfer, more or less, 70.5 acres of land located with the expanded 1988 Jicarilla reservation to Rio Arriba County. In exchange for the Jicarilla Nation's land conveyance, Rio Arriba County agreed to permanently abandon any and all claims to the disputed road. The settlement also provides that the terms of the agreement do not take effect until all parties complete their re-

spective promises in the agreement and the United States, pursuant to federal law, approves of the conveyance of this particular Jicarilla trust land to Rio Arriba County.

Both parties and the Secretary of the Interior have fully preformed the terms agreed to within the settlement agreement. All that stands between the parties to this dispute and long overdo resolution is Congressional approval. Consequently, the legislation will adjust the Jicarilla Reservation border in order to account for the transfer. At the same time, this legislation upholds Congress' trust responsibility to the Jicarilla Nation by placing restrictive covenants on the trust land transferred to the County. In other words, this legislation recognizes that the transferred land is immediately adjacent to the remainder of the Jicarilla Nation. As a result of the transferred land's proximity to the reservation, certain uses of the transferred land would have a detrimental effect on the remaining reservation. Therefore, this legislation allows the County to use the land only for "governmental purposes" and specifically prohibits the County from using the land for prisons, jails, or other incarcerated persons, and other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to expedite passage of this very important legislation. Both the Nation and the County have waited years for this agreement to be implemented. Congress must now do their part to provide long overdo resolution.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALDEANE
COMITO RIES**

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Aldeane Comito Ries, who served as a teacher and principal in the Clark County School District for 38 years. She will be recognized at the formal dedication of Aldeane Comito Ries Elementary School, which was named in her honor.

Raised in Des Moines, Iowa, Aldeane graduated from Roosevelt High School and then attended the University of Iowa. She went on to earn an undergraduate degree in elementary education, with a minor in Italian. She subsequently earned a master's degree in elementary education and is certified in counseling, administration, secondary education and vocational education.

Aldeane began her distinguished teaching career in 1962 at J.E. Manch Elementary School in Las Vegas. After teaching elementary school for 5 years at both Manch and Ruth Fye Elementary Schools, she moved to Farside Middle School where she taught for a year. In 1968, she was appointed as the Dean of Students at Garside and K.O. Knudson Middle Schools. After 2 years as a middle school administrator, she moved to Valley High School where she served as the Dean of Students. Following her time at Valley High School, Aldeane spent 6 years as the Dean at Chaparral High School. In 1981, she was appointed as the Assistant Principal at Chaparral and held that position for 9 years. In 1990, she was appointed to her first principalship at Valley High School. In 1993, she was the first woman to be selected to open a new metro-

politan high school when she was appointed as principal of Silverado. She served there until her retirement. Since retirement, Aldeane has remained active in education by mentoring new principals. Additionally, she touches the lives of the students at Ries Elementary School by volunteering to participate in the Clark County Reads Program.

Throughout her thirty-eight years in the Clark County School District, regardless of her position, Aldeane held fast to the belief that schools should always act in the best interest of their students. Her "students first" philosophy won the hearts of the students and staff with whom she served. Her steadfast commitment to her students and the courage with which she advocated for them serve as an outstanding example for all educators.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Aldeane Comito Ries today on the floor of the House.

COLUMN BY THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House a recent column by Thomas L. Friedman, which offers acute insights into the Dubai Ports World controversy. Mr. Friedman removes politics from the debate and presents a clear and concise evaluation of the issue.

I strongly recommend Mr. Friedman's column to my colleagues.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 24, 2006]

WAR OF THE WORLDS

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

Since 9/11, whenever the Bush team has found itself in political trouble, it has played the national security card against Democrats. It has worked so well that Karl Rove, in a recent speech to the Republican National Committee, made it a campaign theme for 2006.

He said America today faces "a ruthless enemy" and therefore needs "a commander in chief and a Congress who understand the nature of the threat and the gravity of the moment America finds itself in. President Bush and the Republican Party do. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for many Democrats."

Mr. Rove added: "Republicans have a post-9/11 worldview, and many Democrats have a pre-9/11 worldview. That doesn't make them unpatriotic—not at all. But it does make them wrong—deeply and profoundly and consistently wrong."

I particularly like the line "that doesn't make them unpatriotic," when that was exactly the political slur Mr. Rove was trying to implant.

So I understand why Democrats were eager to turn the soft-on-terrorism card back on President Bush when it was revealed that P&O, the navigation company based in London—which has been managing the ports of New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia—had been bought by Dubai Ports World, a company owned by the Dubai monarchy in the United Arab Emirates, an Arab Gulf state, and that the Bush team had approved the Dubai takeover of the U.S. port operations.

I also understand why many Republicans are now running away from the administration. They know that if they don't distance

themselves from Mr. Bush, some Democrats are going to play this very evocative, very visual "giving away our ports to the Arabs" card against them in the coming elections. Yes, you reap what you sow.

But while I have zero sympathy for the political mess in which the president now finds himself, I will not join this feeding frenzy. On the pure merits of this case, the president is right. The port deal should go ahead. Congress should focus on the NSA wiretapping. Not this.

As a country, we must not go down this road of global ethnic profiling—looking for Arabs under our beds the way we once looked for commies. If we do—if America, the world's beacon of pluralism and tolerance, goes down that road—we will take the rest of the world with us. We will sow the wind and we will reap the whirlwind.

If there were a real security issue here, I'd join the critics. But the security argument is bogus and, I would add, borderline racist. Many U.S. ports are run today by foreign companies, but the U.S. Coast Guard still controls all aspects of port security, entry and exits; the U.S. Customs Service is still in charge of inspecting the containers; and U.S. longshoremen still handle the cargos.

The port operator simply oversees the coming and going of ships, making sure they are properly loaded and offloaded in the most cost-effective manner. As my colleague David E. Sanger reported: "Among the many problems at American ports, said Stephen E. Flynn, a retired Coast Guard commander who is an expert on port security at the Council on Foreign Relations, 'who owns the management contract ranks near the very bottom.'"

What ranks much higher for me is the terrible trend emerging in the world today: Sunnis attacking Shiite mosques in Iraq, and vice versa. Danish caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, and violent Muslim protests, including Muslims killing Christians in Nigeria and then Christians killing Muslims. And today's Washington Post story about how some overzealous, security-obsessed U.S. consul in India has created a huge diplomatic flap—on the eve of Mr. Bush's first visit to India—by denying one of India's most respected scientists a visa to America on the grounds that his knowledge of chemistry might be a threat. The U.S. embassy in New Delhi has apologized.

My point is simple: the world is drifting dangerously toward a widespread religious and sectarian cleavage—the likes of which we have not seen for a long, long time. The only country with the power to stem this toxic trend is America.

People across the world still look to our example of pluralism, which is like no other. If we go Dark Ages, if we go down the road of pitchfork-wielding xenophobes, then the whole world will go Dark Ages.

There is a poison loose today, and America—America at its best—is the only antidote. That's why it is critical that we stand by our principles of free trade and welcome the world to do business in our land, as long as there is no security threat. If we start exporting fear instead of hope, we are going to import everyone else's fears right back. That is not a world you want for your kids.

ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PEACE CORPS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps Volunteer, I am honored to for-

mally recognize the agency on the 45th Anniversary of its inception and to help kick-off National Peace Corps Week. This week begins a year long celebration of Peace Corps' 45th Anniversary with events taking place across the country and throughout the world.

During National Peace Corps Week, we salute the men and women of this nation who selflessly have served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as those current Volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: empowering people in developing countries through their grassroots development efforts.

Seventeen constituents of the 15th Congressional District of California are currently serving in the Peace Corps. These honorable constituents serve in almost every continent. The countries being served include Peru, Armenia, Georgia, Namibia, Benin, Bolivia, Ukraine, Moldova, Mali, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Guinea.

I am encouraged by the growth in the number of Peace Corps Volunteers and posts over the years. 7,810 Volunteers are currently in 69 posts serving 75 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. As Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, I am particularly interested in the efforts of the Peace Corps to re-instate its post in Ethiopia. I am in total support of the expansion of this worthy organization.

I fondly remember my time as a volunteer in El Salvador where I built schools and health clinics. The experience meant much to me personally and professionally, sparking a life-long desire to serve in the public sector. I returned with a passion for teaching, and quickly put my skills, including fluency in Spanish, to use in Santa Clara County schools. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

With that said, allow me to call your attention to the President's FY07 request for Peace Corps at \$337 million. Though this is a modest increase from the FY 06 enacted level of \$318.8 million, it will allow the Peace Corps to expand into two more countries. In addition, it will also optimize the number of Volunteers and staff in existing countries, strengthen and expand recruiting efforts, and maximize safety and security training and compliance efforts. I encourage my colleagues in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee to fulfill the President's request.

This week, I honor the Peace Corps and its brave Volunteers for their service to our nation and to the international community. Volunteers are providing expertise and development assistance to countries around the world, finding common ways to address global challenges, and forming bonds with people throughout the world. They make service a cultural necessity. They set a universal standard for how we are to embrace the realities of an ever-shrinking world.

The Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever, and I hope that each one of you will join me in thanking the Volunteers and the Peace Corps for their hard work in pursuit of an altruistic mission.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Peace Corps Week, which runs from February 27th through March 5th.

Forty-five years ago, John F. Kennedy challenged the people of the United States to serve their country: to travel to places they never dreamed they'd visit, to help people they never thought they'd meet, and to do this from the bottom of their hearts. The men and women of the Peace Corps answered and have continued to answer that call, volunteering two years out of their lives to the lives of others.

With 7,810 current volunteers, the Peace Corps has enlisted more than 182,000 men and woman and served in 138 countries to improve the lives of the less fortunate. They've been teachers and mentors to countless children. They've helped farmers grow crops, worked with small businesses to market products, and helped teach new health care practices. They've helped schools develop computer skills, and educated entire communities about the threat of HIV/AIDS.

The United States was founded on the principle that human beings, regardless of race, creed, or sex possess certain inalienable rights: the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Peace Corps volunteers are the ambassadors of these rights.

In the past half-century world events have brought many challenges to Peace Corps volunteers. Yet they have always been able to adapt, responding to those in need regardless of the situation. Volunteers meet all challenges head on with innovation, determination, and compassion. For their altruism, Peace Corps volunteers deserve to be recognized for their work toward peace.

To date, the 6th District has produced over 350 Peace Corps volunteers, including the following 27 current volunteers: Troy A. Agron, who is working in Azerbaijan; Sarah W. Bartfeld, Albania; Carol A. Batz, Tonga; Zachary Burt, Morocco; Lilian Chan, Eastern Caribbean; Rustin P. Crandall, Guyana; Catherine A. Cvengros, Armenia; Ashley E. Fine, Benin; Amil A. Gehrke, Georgia; Levi Hanzel-Sello, Moldova; Sharon Kaiser, Eastern Caribbean; Connor J. Kamada, Senegal; Jenna Kay, Uganda; Paul H. Kingsbury, Panama; Anna F. Kuhn, Tanzania; Ana Alecia Lyman, Mozambique; Julia C. Miller, Burkina Faso; Priya N. Mishra, Moldova; Jonathan G. Morris, Ukraine; Lanthy Nguyen, Macedonia; Nickolette D. Patrick, Ukraine; Alyson L. Peel, Swaziland; Shaydra A. Pflaum-Scott, Macedonia; Uriah S. Reisman, Panama; Christopher Shutt, Bulgaria; Elicia F. Smith, Kenya; and Eric J. Tawney, Vanuatu.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating National Peace Corps Week and honoring the brave and selfless volunteers who have sacrificed years of their lives to make our world a better place.